 incline. The Commission on the Status of Women is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), dedicated exclusively to the promotion of gender equality and the advancement of women.

## News from the Mediterranean Shores

**What awaits us in 2013?**

The examples mount and illustrate, at these different levels, the state of human society. A society based on a system of domination in which human beings do not have the same value. Violence against women sets the tone for this world; far from being a fatality, it has a political function: to maintain women in a subordinate position.

Will one day those who have signed the texts calling for the elimination of violence against women have the courage to follow through on their commitment and overthrow this order through audacious political measures... even if this means, as they are mostly men, that they will lose their superior position?

The combat to end violence against women has only just begun.

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**Dealing with the fall of dictatorships, despite the desire for change voiced throughout the region, resistance regarding women’s rights to occupy public space and exercise all of their individual liberties demonstrates that women’s bodies remain the focus of everything forbidden. This is the reason our 2012 photography competition used the words of a 19th century Russian feminist, Emma Goldman, who said, “What is the point of a revolution if I cannot dance?”

Of the 197 photos received from 16 different countries (Algeria, Bosnia, Egypt, Spain, France, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Libya, Palestine, Portugal, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey) 16 photos were selected by a jury comprising of Sahar Behbadd, Pierre Yves Gimenez, Sylvie Hugues, Frédérique Joual, Caroline Lauret-Simon, and Catalina Martin-Cluza, Marie-Paule

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**SHORT (and less short) NEWS...**

In peace, www.globalfundforwomen.org

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**Why do we need a Mediterranean Women’s Fund?**

Belonging to the same cultural area, under the influence of three monotheist religions, women from the Mediterranean region are subjected to a common form of patriarchy and despite living in apparently very different situations, share many similar aspects of their condition. Whether they come from the southern or the northern shores of the Mediterranean, women know that they must not only fight to obtain equality but also to strengthen their existing rights which have been obtained thanks to their tenacity and their struggles.

They act in a climate of general regression which is the effect of radical conservative movements in societies undergoing changes and they are experiencing many difficulties in finding the necessary funding for their actions at a local or regional level. This is why in 2008, women from North Africa and Southern Europe have taken the initiative to create a Mediterranean Women’s Fund whose aim is to help with improving women’s condition and to promote gender equality throughout all those countries in the Mediterranean region.

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**Deadline for the next competition:**

February 2013

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**2013 competition:**

**“It is only at dawn that I can liberate myself from the city.”**

— Caroline Sakina Brac de la Perrière

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**Fonds pour les Femmes en Méditerranée**

**March 2013 exhibition with the theme “Women and Revolutions”, in partnership with the city of Paris.**

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**In peace,**

www.globalfundforwomen.org
**THANKS TO YOUR HELP, IN 2012 THE MEDITERRANEAN WOMEN’S FUND WAS ABLE TO SUPPORT 25 ASSOCIATIONS WORKING ON…**

**CAPACITY BUILDING**

**Mujeres Pa’lante Asociación** founded in 2005, is constituted by migrant women from Latin American: Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, and 12 other countries, who have understood the process through which an migrant woman must pass when she arrives in Spain, identifying problems in their arrival and in the process of integration into the new social and economic context. The project “Empowerment of Latin American women for their active participation in the Catalan context” is directed to migrant women in the Catalan context and coordinated by the migrant women themselves. The accomplishment allows this group of women to be supported in the middle of the difficulties and challenges that they encounter as women, migrants and workers within the scenarios of social and economic upheaval at the international level, and particularly in Spain.

**ALBANIA**

**Albanian Women’s Empowerment Network** is composed of 8 organizations operating from the north to the south of Albania. It was created in December 2011. AWEN aims to support, protect and promote the rights and interests of women and girls throughout Albania, regardless of political orientation, religion, education level, ethnicity, age, economic situation, sexual orientation, disability and gender identity.

The project “Struggling women’s participation through education and raising awareness in decision making and political life” will be implemented through the organization of 4 round tables, and 8 information sessions with community and regional stakeholders in eight different districts in Albania. The purpose of the round tables is to share and disseminate information on the current situation of women’s participation in political life in the country, chances of women’s involvement in political life in the country, chances of women’s involvement in political life in the country, chances of women’s involvement in political life in the country.

**PALESTINE**

**Women for Women’s Rights** was created in 2004 aiming to create opportunities for problem solving in the belief that women can be active in building a better future for Palestinian women. Project’s title: Take the Lead (2) Summer Wings: this project is a continuation of the previous one addressing a new theme, “basic rights”, and the right to live. The two-week summer camp is targeted for 25-30 girls between 15-16 years. A steering committee was chosen from the group who will lead the process from inside. The purpose is to improve the psycho-social and emotional well-being of Palestinian women and girls in Palestine by addressing and introducing one basic right, “the right to live”, as an educational tool that can be used and explored in the activities.

**SYRIA**

**Nassawiya** was born in 2011. Its mission is to create, connect, and support feminist initiatives in Lebanon.

The project “Sexuality and migration in women’s issues in the context of urban-rural migrations” is a capacity building program that aims to engage young women and men in a progressive debate on gender and sexuality taboos in Syria.

**TUNISIA**

**Tamettut Akwmani (Women Everywhere)** responds to the need to raise awareness and women’s empowerment because social mobilization is the best guarantee for real and better changes for women rights.

The project “Sexuality program” project is mainly a capacity building program that aims to engage young women and men in a progressive debate on gender and sexuality taboos in Egypt.

**LEBANON**

**Women in Revolution** is an educational tool that can be used and explored in the activities.

**INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION**

**ALGERIA**

**ASURIF (The Step)** founded in 2011, aims to create an action framework for youth, in priority women, and particularly university students and graduates. The project, Tamettut Akwmani (Women Everywhere) responds to the need to raise awareness and women’s empowerment because social mobilization is the best guarantee for real and better changes for women rights.

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**FRANCE**

**Women Against Fundamentalisms (FCG)** has been working since 1995 to raise awareness to advance women’s rights and the development of civil society in partnership with France and countries around the Mediterranean basin. In the name of the Lyon based collective Women in Revolution, it is in charge of the project, Women in Revolution, Act 1, which consists of producing a video based on the debates that took place in Lyon in September 2011 on

**Spanish**

Thank you for your help, in 2012 the Mediterranean Women’s Fund was able to support 25 associations working on...
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AWARENESS RISING AND TRAININGS ON WOMEN’S RIGHTS FOR YOUNG GIRLS

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INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

In its “Reinforcing the women’s movement” programme, the Mediterranean Women’s Fund offered to provide women facing emergency situations a space for discussion and strategic reflection.

Over the course of 2011, some fifteen associations were created and swelled the ranks of the existing movement, which previously had been quite tenuous. At the same time, the ultra conservative Islamist movement was taking control of soci- ety and won the elections in October 2011.

The need for the associations to meet, analyze the situation, and regroup them- selves appeared urgent, a need felt even more deeply by the new arrivals who had acquired enough experience in the field to appreciate the necessity of work- ing with the others.

The meeting assembled 19 representatives of 14 Tunisian associations, of which 6 were from the interior of the country, and 7 members of other Maghreb wom- en’s associations and feminist funds. This meeting was organized in collaboration with Urgent Action Fund–Africa.

NEWSLETTER FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN SHORES

To find out more about all of the projects, visit the information page of our website www.medwomensfund.org

AND HELPED IN THE ORGANIZATION OF MEETINGS BETWEEN WOMEN’S RIGHTS ACTIVISTS IN THE FORM OF

A MEETING ENTITLED, “TOGETHER FOR EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN” IN ALGER IN DECEMBER

This meeting was the fruit of a process during which 10 women’s associations (AFAD, AFEPEC, CIDOOT, DIAZARIOUMEN, FAIM, FARD, FIC, RACHIDA-Tebessa, SOS Femmes en Désertes, Thawa Fadma N’Sourah) first analyzed their own activities over the course of the past twenty years. At the end of this period, an analysis was published a synthesis entitled “The march towards equality, Self-asses- sment of women’s associations. Dynamics and perspectives” (see www.medwomens- fund.org).

This document served as the basis for discussions for the meeting organized De- cember 7-8 with the ten associations, coordinated by the Mediterranean Women’s Fund with the support of UN Women Algeria and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation in Algeria.

One hundred and thirty people participated, members of 46 associations work- ing on issues related to women, youth, children, citizenship, ecology, human rights, and cultural development in 16 regions. Remarkably, 60% of the partici- pants were under the age of thirty and 20% were young men.

In Egypt, the project “Naza for Feminist Studies” was founded in 2007, it is a feminist group that aims to cre- ate a different organizational model and presents a different medium for youth.

Naza believes that a feminist and progressive move- ment is the answer to all of the challenges revolting around women rights, gender and sexuality taboos, and women’s empowerment because social mobil- ization is the best guarantee for real and better changes for women rights.

The Sexuality program project is mainly a capacity building program that aims to engage young women and men in a progressive debate on gender and sexuality taboos in Egypt.

Soriat for Humanitarian Development was created in 2002 to help women and children victims of the trag- ically.

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Passionate debates reaffirmed the urgent need for change in relations between men and women in Algeria, the need to open the movement to everyone inter- ested in the question of equality without overlooking the necessary stage of con- frontation between generations, to finally reach a point where dialogue and rec- ognition of the importance of collective action is possible

“Is di...”

For Young Girls and Women in Rural Areas

ASHUFF (The Step) founded in 2011, aims to create an action framework for youth, in priority women, and particu- larly university students and graduates. The project, Tamettuuk Akwinehais (Women Every- where) responds to the need to raise awareness to women’s issues in the entire society. What is in- volved is both wholeheartedly a theoretical debate on the issue of the subordination of effective feminist women in civil society and to contribute in practice to help help women farmers and artisans to reach financial independence, and enhance and publicise their savoir-faire in their communities in Kubyle (through two pilot income generating projects meant to be tak- en over by the women themselves).

For Young Girls

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A society based on a system of domination in which human beings do not have the same value. Violence against women sets the tune for this world; far from being a fatality, it has a political function: to maintain women in a subordinate position.

Will one day those who have signed the texts calling for the elimination of violence against women have the courage to follow through on their commitment and overthrow this order through audacious political measures... even if this means, as they are mostly men, that they will lose their superior position?

The combat to end violence against women has only just begun.

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**I WISH TO DONATE TO THE MEDITERRANEAN WOMEN’S FUND**  
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